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cussion is summed up in a battle-cry of a united British empire for the fundamental principles of human liberties. It is a plea for the perpetuation of the most cherished elements of the British constitution, on the eve of a great contest that has threatened the very existence of Britain and British constitutionalism.

The Commodities Clause. By Thomas Latimer Kibler. Washington, D.C.: John Byrne & Co., 1916. 8vo, pp. 178.

The reader might be led by the title of this instructive work to conclude that it is a thoroughgoing technical treatise on the legal aspects of railroad reform legislation; but he will find rather an interesting story of the conditions which gave rise to the necessity for the enactment of the clause in question, and a vivid description of the various stages through which the act passed in the process of its making, due to the conflict of interests in Congress. Last of all but not least, Mr. Kibler shows in what respects the act is weak and has not served the purpose for which it was intended, and points out a remedial course of action.

The aim of the Commodities Clause was to eliminate the possibility of a railroad company's owning mines or oil property and at the same time carrying the products of these mines or oil wells. A separation of the interests was supposed to do away with discrimination against competitors and to diminish the tendency toward monopoly. But the clause in its final form left a loophole whereby the railroads may own and operate coal mines, "sell" the coal to a sales company which is under its control, and continue to haul the product of the mine. It is a simple evasion of the spirit of the law and can be remedied by forbidding any railroad company to own mines in the territory which it serves. This would take away the incentive for discrimination and discourage such a merger of large interests of this nature.

A Legal Minimum Wage. By John O'Grady. (Dissertation, Catholic University of America.) Washington: privately printed, 1915. Pp. 138.

This is a brief summary of the modern minimum wage movement and its results in different countries. As an introduction to this movement two chapters of historical narrative are given, sketching the attempts at wage control prior to the *laissez-faire* movement, and also gild and statutory regulations during the Middle Ages. Chapters follow on the arbitration and wages-board systems in New Zealand and Victoria and in England and Wales. The results of the foregoing have been satisfactory, concludes the writer, although many non-juridical factors have contributed to their success.

The remainder of the book is devoted to a comparative study of the wage plans adopted by the commonwealths in the United States. The last chapter